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Promises in the Glorious Quran Linguistic Analysis

Asst. Prof. Dr. Wayees Jallud Ibrahim
Department of English
College of Basic Education / University of Mosul

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Abstract:

The research deals with the linguistic analysis of promises in the Glorious Quran. Keeping promises is an important aspect of human life and Islam lays great emphasis on the fulfillment of promises. Breaking a promises is a bad manner as they facilitate social coordination and cooperation. A promise is a declaration that one will or will not do something. It is either explicitly or implicitly used in the Glorious quran. In this study, promises are identified in (106) verses and classified into nouns, verbs and adjectives. Types of these nouns, verbs and adjectives are also identified and interpreted. Characteristics of the promises in the Glorious Quran are linguistically described. Finally, conclusions concerning promises are provided.

التحليل اللغوي للوعد في القران الكريم

أ.م.د. ويس جلود إبراهيم
قسم اللغة الانكليزية
كلية التربية الأساسية/ جامعة الموصل

ملخص البحث:

يدرس البحث الحالي التحليل اللغوي للوعد في القران الكريم، حيث أن الوفاء بالوعد يعد جانبا مهما في الحياة البشرية ويؤكد الاسلام على ذلك، اذ أن خرق الوعود عادة سيئة، والوعود تسهل التناسق والتعاون الاجتماعي، وهي اعلان على أن المرء سوف يقوم أو لايقوم بعمل شئ ما، وتكون الوعود ضمنية او غير ضمنية (معبر عنها بكلمات الوعد) وقد تم تشخيص الوعود غير الضمنية في 106 اية، كما اعطيت أمثلة على الوعود الضمنية في القران الكريم وكيفية التعبير عنها.

وأما الوعود غيرالضمنية فقد صنفت الى اسماء وأفعال وصفات وبينا أنواع هذه الاسماء والأفعال والصفات والتفسير اللغوي لاستخدامها وبينا أيضا صفات الوعد في القران الكريم بدلالة العبارت اللغوية. وأخيرا تم تقديم بعض الاستنتاجات التي تتعلق بدلالة الوعد في القران الكريم.

1.Introduction:

People make agreements and covenants with one another to make families and clans. Keeping promises is an important aspect of human life and every person considers it very bad to do anything in violation of a promise. Every person who enters into a covenant with another accepts the terms of the contract. Islam is a religion of nature that lays great stress on the fulfillment of promises.

When a person agrees to do something that person is making a promise. A promise can be made verbally (by saying it), or in writting as a contract. Breaking a promise is often a bad manner and can sometimes be illegal, such as when a contract is not kept. Promises are made in times of danger, or in moments of strong desire and thanksgiving as Almighty Allah has blessed our hearts. "If we promise God certain things in moments of danger, or if we try to bargain with Him, try to get Him to work for us, God expects us to pay to the full exactly what we promise."(Stedman,2009,P.3)

Promises are of particular interest to philosophers and social scientists. They have a role in producing trust and facilitating social coordination and cooperation. Promises are also important elements of justice, law and politics. They are of special interest to ethical theorists, and they are commonly taken to impose moral obligations. For Aristotle promise-keeping is mandated by the virtues, in particular honesty and justice. The natural law governs promise keeping. The contract theory employs the notion of a mutual agreement or contract between the members of a community as a device for grounding moral principles. (Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy, 2008, p.6). Some people promise and they want to fulfil their promises, they are truthful, others promise and do not want to fulfil their promises, they are liars, some people promise and they have the intention of fulfilling their promises, they are truthful, others promise with the intention of not fulfilling their promises, theyarealsoliars (An-Nabulsi,1992,p.2)

Promises of Allah to the believers are numerous. Some of will be Fulfilled in this world, while others will be fulfilled in the Day thereafter. The most sought after is the promise of eternal Paradise (Ummah Forum, www.ummah.com /forum/2012, Promises of Allah to the believers, Bulletin Solutions, inc., version 4.1-5) In AL-Nahl 91, Almighty Allah forbids Muslims to break their promises after they have confirmed them.All promises are regarded as having Almighty Allah as their witness. In the Hadith, the prophet states that a Muslim who made a promise and then saw a better thing to do, should do the better thing and then make an act of atonement for breaking the promise. (Wikipedia the free encyclopedia, 2009, promise http://www. quotegarden.com/promises.htm

2. Aim of the research:

The aim of the present study is to investigate the use of promises in the Glorious Quran, their types, linguistic implications, frequencies and percentages.

3.Value of the study:

Promises are important elements in justice, law and politics.They are of special interest to ethical theorists and also allow people to trust each other.They impose moral obligations on the speaker. The study is, therefore, important for philosophers of language action and game theorists, students of linguistics and language teachers ,social coordination and cooperation.

4.Procedure:

In this work, expressions of promises in the Glorious Quran are studied in the translations of Quranic verses we have depended on, namely, AL-Hilali and Khan (1996).Promise expressions are identified, tabulated and arranged according to suras and verses.Nouns, verbs, adjectives and their types are also identified.Their implication to the linguistic interpretation of the text is also discussed.

5.Definition of promise and other related terms

5.1. **Promise:** A promise is a declaration assuring that one will or will not do something.(The Saurus and Encyclopedia, 2009, p. 3). Hornby (1985) defines a promise as a written or spoken undertaking to do, or not to do something. Collins Essential English Dictionary (2006)defines a promise as "**1.** to say that one will definitely do or not do something: I promise I'll have it finished by the end of the week **2**. to undertake to give (something to someone): He promised me a car for my birthday."

5.2.**Vow**: A vow is a special promise. It is mostly used in a religious sense or in ceremonies such as marriages when the couples who are being married make their "marriage vows", promising to be faithful to one another.Vows are never mandatory, never obligatory, upon the people of Allah.You don’t have to promise Allah Almighty anything in order to get something from Him. Allah is a giver. All this is voluntary on your part. Yet, it is significant that there is something innate in human beings which makes us want to vow, to promise new resolutions or determinations to Allah .Once you make a vow, Allah Almighty expects you to fulfill it. It is better never to vow, than to make a vow and not pay it.

5.3. **Oath**: An oath is a promise in the legal sense.When someone has to give evidence in a court of law he " swears an oath".This means that he promises he will tell the truth. (Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia, 2009, P.1)

6.Promises as speech acts

Speech acts are actions that we perform by speaking. Austin's (1975) in "How to do things with words", defines two sorts of speech acts, or "performatives": illocutions and perlocutions. Illocutions are those actions that we perform by uttering the words alone. Perlocutions are actions performed by speaking which require some particular effect of the speech in order to be successful.

Austin takes promising to be an illocutionary act that is merely a matter of certain form of utterance, under certain conditions because he thinks that promising is a conventional act, one that involves a certain practice to formalize the action. Austin thinks that in this way promises are just a piece with many sorts of obligation-producing actions, such as betting, buying and contracting"(Austin, 1975, P.19). Austin's linguistic distinction mirrors the crucial difference between the expectational and conventional theories of promising. On the conventionalist view that Austin adopts, promises are conventional moves in the game, and as such one promises by making the right moves, i.e. saying the right sorts of things and otherwise obeying the rules of the game. For expectationalists, a promise is a perlocutionary act, as it is only successful if it actually produces the expectation in the promise that the promise will be carried out. The investigation of promises as speech acts is furthered in the work of Jones 1966, Hanfling 1975, Searle 1985, Alston 1994, and Pratt 2001 (Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosoph, 2009, p.16). Palmer (1981, pp.163-4) states that we can promise without giving any overt indication that we are doing so."I **shall** be there" may or may not be a promise while "I promise to come tomorrow" is a performative using the verb "promise". Intermediate between these two extremes, there are linguistic devices such as the modal verbs shall and may/can which are used to make promises and give permission.You shall have it tomorrow " and "You can go now" are clearly and unambiguously a promise and granting of permission. Shall and can are performative verbs.The issue is the degree to which this verb has become a conventional marker of promise. The expression "I promise" is not a necessary part of a promise utterance.There are other linguistic forms (in an interaction context) capable of achieving the same function, as in "I am going to clean my room. " Or "I will clean my room". The utterance "I promise to clean my room" is the surface form of " I promise + I will clean my room". This analysis leads us to the conclusion that all linguistic forms specific to promises must express a further action, whether in the deep structure, as in "I promise to clean my room " or in their surface structure, as in "I am going to clean my room" or "I will clean my room" (Noveck and Dan, 2004: pp.209).

Palmer (1981: pp.165) states that there are preparatory conditions for promises: First, for a promise, the hearer would like the action done and the speaker knows that, but it is not obvious whether the speaker will perform the action in the normal course of events. Secondly, there are the sincerity conditions that the speaker intends to act.Thirdly, the essential condition is that the speaker intends his utterance to count as a promise, and that the hearer should be informed of that intention irrespective of whether he is sincere or not – a promise is still a promise even if I have no intention to act, but an utterance would not be a promise if I did not intend it to be so.We recognize promises as speech acts because we have the verb promise. A sentence beginning with " I promise" could also be a warning.

7.Linguistic Analysis

In the present study, expressions of explicit promises are identified in the Glorious Quran. The total number of promises is 125 in 106 Quranic verses.Promises are identified as nouns , verbs and adjectives.Nouns are divided into definite and indefinite while verbs are classified into present and past, active and passive.The following table presents the analysis followed by the linguistic interpretation of figures and percentages.

Table(1) below shows the use of promises in the Glorious Quran:

Sura,Part,Verse	Expression	Nouns	Present	Past
1.AlBaqara2,235	Don't promise them in secret(imperative) لاتواعدوهن سرا		تواعدوهن	
2.Al-Baqara 2,268	The Satan promises you poverty,Allah promises you forgiveness. الشيطان يعدكم الفقر والله يعدكم مغفرة		يعدكم، يعدكم	
3.Al-Imran 3,9	Allah never breaks the promise ان الله لايخلف الميعاد	الميعاد		
4.Aal-Imran3,152	Allah fulfilled His promise. صدقكم الله وعده	وعده		
5.Aal-Imran 4,183	Allah has taken our promise ان الله عهد الينا (وعدنا)			عهد (وعد)
6.Aal-Imran,4,194	…Grant us what you promised us You never break your promise… ربنا اتنا ماوعدتنا انك لاتخلف	الميعاد		وعدتنا

	الميعاد			
7.An-Nisa 5,95	Unto each Allah promised good. وكلا وعد الله الحسنى			وعد
8.Al-Nisa,5,120	Satan makes promises to them.. يعدهم الشيطان The Satan promises are nothing but deception وما يعدهم الشيطان الا غرورا		يعدهم يعدهم	
9.Al-Nisa,5,122	Allah's promise is the truth. وعد الله حق	وعد		
10.Al-Ma'ida,6,9	Allah(has) promised those who believe وعد الله الذين امنوا			وعد
11.Al-Ma'ida,8,134	…which you are promised will come to pass… ان ما توعدون لات		توعدون Passive	
12.Al-A'raf,8,44	"…what our Lord (had) promised us…" لقد وجدنا ما وعدنا ربنا حقا ou… what your Lord promised y فهل وجدتم ما وعدكم ربكم حقا			وعدنا وعدكم
13.Al-A'raf,9,134	of what he promised you ياموسى ادعو لنا ربك بما **عهد** عندك (بما وعدك)			عهد (وعد)
14.Al-Anfal,9,7	…Allah promises you one of the two parties (of the enemy) واذ **يعدكم** الله احدى الطائفتين		يعدكم	
15.At-Tauba,10,68	Allah has promised the hypocrities وعد الله المنافقين			وعد
16.At-Tauba,10,72	Allah has promised the believers Gardens underwhich rivers flow وعد الله المؤمنين والمؤمنات جنات تجري من تحتها الانهار			وعد
17.At-Tauba,10,77	Which they had promised to Him and because they used to tell lies. بما اخلفوا ما وعدوه وبما كانوا يكذبون			وعدوه
18.At-Tauba,10,111	It is a promise in truth وعدا عليه حقا	وعدا		

19.At-Tauba,11,114	A promise ,He promised موعدة وعدها	موعدة		وعدها
20.Yunis,11,4	The promise of Allah is true وعد الله حقا	وعد		
21.Yunis,11,46	We show you some of what we promise them. واما نرينك بعض الذي نعدهم او نتوفينك		نعدهم	
22.Yunis,11,48	When will be this promise ويقولون متى هذا الوعد ان كنتم صادقين	الوعد		
23.Yunis,11,55	Allah's promise is true وعد الله حق	وعد		
24.Hud,12,17	The fire will be his promise ومن يكفر به من الاحزاب فالنار موعده	موعده		
25.Hud,12,45	Verily,Your promise is true وان وعدك الحق	وعدك		
26.Hud,12,65	This is a promise that will not be lied. ذلك وعد غير مكذوب	وعد		
27.Al-Ra'd,13,31	Until the promise of Allah comes. حتى يأتي وعد الله Allah breaks not the promise. ان الله لايخلف الميعاد	وعد الميعاد		
28.Al-Ra'd,13,35	…which the pious have been promised مثل الجنة التي وعد المتقون			وعدpassive
29.Al-Ra'd,13,40	We promise them		نعدهم	
30.Ibrahim,13,22	Allah promised you a promise of truth.And I(The Satan) promised But I betrayed you. ان الله وعدكم وعد الحق ووعدتكم فأخلفتكم	وعد		وعدكم ووعدتكم
31.Ibrahim,13,47	Allah will not fail to keep his promise to His Messengers فلا تحسبن الله مخلف وعده رسله	وعده		
32.Al-Hijir,14,43	Hell is their			

	promise(promised place) وان جهنم لموعدهم أجمعين	موعدهم		
33.An-Nahl,14,38	Yes,a promise upon him in truth بلى وعدا عليه حقا	وعدا		
34.Al-Isra',15,5	And it was a promise (completely fulfilled) وكان وعدا مفعولا	وعدا		
35.Al-Isra' ,15,7	Then ,when the second promise came to pass to disgrace your faces and to enter the moseque (of Jerusalim) as they had entered it before. فاذا جاء وعد الاخرة ليسئوا وجوهكم وليدخلوا المسجد كما دخلوه اول مرة	وعد الاخرة		
36.Al-Isra',15,64	And promise them (imperative) عدهم(أمر) But the Satan promises them nothing but deceit. ومايعدهم الشيطان الا غرورا		يعدهم	
37.Al-Isra',15,104	When the final promise comes… فاذا جاء وعد الاخرة جئنا بكم لفيفا	وعد		
38.Al-Isra',15,108	Truly,the promise of our Lord must be fulfilled ان كان وعد ربنا لمفعولا	وعد		
39.Al-Kahf,15,21	The promise of Allah is true ان وعد الله حق	وعد		
40.Al-Kahf,16,98	The promise of my Lord is ever true. فاذا جاء وعد ربي جعله دكاء وكان وعد ربي حقا	وعد وعد		
41.Maryam,16,54	And mention in the Book Isma'il.Verily,he was true to what he promised…. واذكر في الكتاب اسماعيل انه كان صادق الوعد وكان رسولا نبيا	الوعد		

42.Maryam,16,61	(They will enter) Eden Paradise Which the Most Gracious has promised to His slaves in the unseen:Verily, His promise must come to pass جنات عدن التي وعد الرحمن عباده بالغيب انه كان وعده مأتيا	وعده		وعد
43.Maryam,,16,75	See that which they are promised حتى اذا رأوا مايوعدون		يوعدون	
44.Maryam,16,87	None shall have the power of intercession,but such a one as has received a promise from the most Gracious لايملكون الشفاعة الا من اتخذ عند الرحمن عهدا(وعدا)	عهدا (وعدا)		
45.Taha,16,86	Moses said:"O my people!Did not your Lord promise you a fair promise?Did then the promise seem to you long in coming?'… That you broke your promise to me. ألم يعدكم ربكم وعدا حسنا أفطال عليكم العهد ام اردتم ان يحل عليكم غضب من ربكم فأخلفتم موعدي	العهد موعدي وعدا	يعدكم	
46.Taha,16,87	We broke not the promise to you قالوا ما أخلفنا موعدك	موعدك		
47.Taha,16,97	You have a promise that will not fail. وان لك موعدا لن نخلفه	موعدا		
48.Al-Anbiya',17,9	Then we fulfilled to them the promise ثم صدقناهم الوعد فانجيناهم ومن نشاء	الوعد		
49.Al-Anbiya',17,38	When will this promise(come) if you are truthful? ويقولون متى هذا الوعد ان كنتم صادقين	الوعد		
50.Al-A',17,97	And the true promise(Day of Resurrection) shall draw near(of fulfillment)	الوعد		

	واقترب الوعد الحق			
51.Al-Anbiya',17,103	This is your day which you are promised هذا يومكم الذي كنتم توعدون		توعدون	
52.Al-Anbiya',17,104	(It is) a promise binding on us وعدا علينا انا كنا فاعلين	وعدا		
53.Al-Anbiya',17,109	That which you are promised وان ادري أقريب أم بعيد ماتوعدون		توعدون	
54.Al-Hajj,17,47	Allah fails not **His promise** ولن يخلف الله وعده	وعده		
55.Al-Hajj,17,72	"The fire which Allah(has) promised to those who disbelieved." "النار وعدها الله الذين كفروا"			وعدها
56.Al-Mu'minoon,18, 35.	"Does he promise you…?" "أيعدكم انكم اذا متم وكنتم ترابا وعظاما انكم مخرجون"		يعدكم	
57.Al-Mu'minoon,18, 36	"Far ,very far is that which you are promised هيهات، هيهات لما توعدون		توعدون	
58.Al-Mu'minoon,18, 83	This we were promised we and our fathers before. لقد وعدنا نحن واباؤنا هذا من قبل			وعدنا passive
59.An-Noor,18,55	Allah has promised وعد الله الذين امنوا منكم وعملوا الصالحات ليستخلفنهم في الارض			وعد
60.Al-Furqan,18,15	Say:"Is that better or the Paradise of Eternity which is promised to the pious? قل أذلك خير أم جنة الخلد التي وعد المتقون			وعد passive
61.Al-Furqan ,18,16	It is a promise binding upon your Lord كان على ربك وعدا مسؤولا	وعدا		
62.Al-Shu'ara,19,206	…which they had been promised ثم جاءهم ما كانوا يوعدون		يوعدون	
63.An-Naml,20,68	We were promised this-we and our fathers before…" لقد وعدنا هذا نحن واباؤنا من قبل			passive وعدنا
64.An-Naml,20 ,71	When this promise be fulfilled? ويقولون متى هذا الوعد ان كنتم صادقين	الوعد		

65.Al-Qasas,20,13	The promise of Allah is true ان وعد الله حق	وعد		
66.Al-Qasas,20,61	" We have promised him an excellent promise أفمن وعدناه وعدا حسنا	وعدا		وعدناه
67.Ar-Room,21,6	It is a promise of Allah and Allah fails not in His promise. وعد الله لايخلف الله وعده	وعد ، وعده		
68.Ar-Room,21,60	Verily,the promise of Allah is true فاصبر ان وعد الله حق	وعد		
69.Luqman,21,9	"It is a promise of Allah in truth…" وعد الله حقا	وعد		
70.Luqman,21,33	"The promise of Allah is true" ان وعد الله حق	وعد		
71.Al-Ahzab,21,12	"…**Allah and his Messenger promised us** nothing but delusion!" وعدنا الله ورسوله			وعدنا
72.Al-Ahzab,21,22	This is what Allah and His Mesenger had promised us. هذا ما وعدنا الله ورسوله			وعدنا
73.Saba',22,29	When will this promise be fulfilled if you are truthful? ويقولون متى هذا الوعد ان كنتم صادقين	الوعد		
74.Fatir,22,5	The promise of Allah is true يأأيها الناس ان وعد الله حق	وعد		
75.Fatir,22,40	The wrong doers promise one another nothing but delusion. بل ان يعد الظالمون بعضهم الاغرورا		يعد	
76.Yaseen,23,48	" When will this promise be fulfilled?" ويقولون متى هذا الوعد ان كنتم صادقين	الوعد		
77.Yaseen,23,52	This is what Allah had promised هذا ما وعد الرحمن وصدق المرسلون			وعد

78.Yaseen,23,63	This is Hell which you were promised! هذه جهنم التي كنتم توعدون		توعدون	
79.Sad,23,53	This is what you are promised for the Day of Reckoning! هذا ماتوعدون ليوم الحساب		توعدون	
80.Az-Zumar,23,20	This is the promise of Allah,and Allah does not fail His promise. وعد الله لايخلف الله الميعاد	وعد الميعاد		
81.Az-Zumar,24,74	And they said:All praise and thanks are Allah's who has fulfilled His promise وقالوا الحمد لله الذي صدقنا وعده	وعده		
82.Ghafir,24,8	…make them enter the paradise which you have promised them ربنا وأدخلهم جنات عدن التي وعدتهم ومن صلح من ابائهم وأزواجهم وذريتهم			وعدتهم
83.Ghafir,24,55	So be patient,verily, the promise of Allah is true فاصبر ان وعد الله حق	وعد		
84.Ghafir,24,77	So be patient ,verily , the promise of Allah is true فاصبر ان وعد الله حق فانما نرينك بعض الذي نعدهم	وعد	نعدهم	
85.Fussilat,24,30	But receive the glad tidings of Paradise which you have been promised وابشروا بالجنة التي كنتم توعدون		توعدون	
86.Az- Zukhruf,25,8	So leave them speak nonsense and play until they meet the day of theirs which they have been promised فذرهم يخوضوا ويلعبوا حتى يلقوا يومهم الذي يوعدون		يوعدون	
87.Al-Jathiya,25,32	واذا قيل ان وعد الله حق وان الساعة لاريب فيها	وعد		
88.Al-Ahqaf,26,16	A promise of truth,which they have been promised وعد الصدق الذي كانوا يوعدون	وعد	يوعدون	
89.Al-Ahqaf,26,17	A promise of Allah وعد الله Do you promise me? أتعدانني(ابويه) أن أخرج وقد خلت		أتعدانني	

	القرون من قبلي ويلك امن ان وعد الله حق	وعد		
90.Al-Ahqaf,26,35	When they will see that which they are promised يرون مايوعدون		يوعدون	
91.Muhammad,26, 15	The Paradise which the pious have been promised مثل الجنة التي وعد التقون			وعد passive
92.Al-Fath,26,20	Allah has promised you abundant spoils that you will capture وعدكم الله مغانم كثيرة			وعدكم
93.Al-Fath,26,29	Allah has promised those who believe and do righteous good deeds,forgiveness and a mighty reward وعد الله الذين امنوا وعملوا الصالحات منهم مغفرة واجرا عظيما			وعد
94.Qaf,26,32	This is what you are promised هذا ماتوعدون لكل ابواب حفيظ		توعدون	
95.Ath -Thariyat,26,5	Verily,what you are promised is true انما توعدون لصادق		توعدون	
96.Ath--Thariyat,26,22	And in the heavren is your provision,and that which you are promised وفي السماء رزقكم وما توعدون		توعدون	
97.Al-Thariyat,26,60	Then woe to those who disbelieve from their Day which they have been promised فويل للذين كفروا من يومهم الذي يوعدون		يوعدون	
98.Al-Hadeed,27,10	To all Allah has promised the best وكلا وعد الله الحسنى			وعد
99.Al-Mulk,29,25	They say:"When will this promise come if you are telling the truth ويقولون متى هذا الوعد ان كنتم صادقين	الوعد		
100.Al-Ma'arij,29,42	So leave them to plunge in vain talk and play about,until they meet their Day which they are			

	promised فذرهم يخوضوا ويلعبوا حتى يلقوا يومهم الذي يوعدون		يوعدون	
101.Al-Ma'arij,29,44	That is the Day which they are promised ذلك اليوم الذي كانوا يوعدون		يوعدون	
102.Al-Jin,29,24	When they see that which they are promised حتى اذا رأوا ما يوعدون		يوعدون	
104.Al-Muzzammil 29,18	Heaven will be cleft asunder.His promise is certainly be accomplished السماء منفطر به كان وعده مفعولا	وعده		
105.Al-Mursalat,29,7	Surely,what you are promised must come to pass انما توعدون لواقع		توعدون	
106.Al-Burooj,30,2	And by the **promised** Day(the Day of Resurrection) **واليوم الموعود Adjective**	الموعود		

Table 2 below shows that the frequency of nouns denoting promises is 59(48%) while verbs comstitute 65(52%) .This shows that promises are mostly denoted by verbs concerned with action that will be fulfilled, while the use of nouns to express promises implies that promises are concret, precise and accurate.Only one adjective is used in the whole verses which shows that promises are not mere abstract description.The table also shows that verbs used in the past are mostly(83%) active in which the doer of the action(the promiser) is clear and understood,while 60% of verbs in the present are passive in which there is no need to mention the promiser because it is understood from the context .Most of the nouns(83%) are definite, clear, certain and undoubtful, they will be fulfilled and cannot be lied.

Table 2: Frequency of explicit promises in the Glorious Quran

Adjs(1, 1%)	Nouns(59,48%)		Verbs(65, 52%)				
	Definite	Indefinite	imperative	present		past	
				Active	passive	acive	passive
1	49	10	1	14	21	24	5
	83%	17%	1.5 %	40%	60%	83%	17

7.1.A.Definite Nouns

Table(3) shows the fequency of definite nouns in the Quranic verses expressing promises.Most of the nouns are defined by annextation and association to Allah Almighty or pronouns referring to Allah which shows that they are Allah's promises.

Frequency of Definite Nouns Table(3)

Defined by Al(the)	Annexed To (His)	Annexed to Allah	Annexed to Lord (Rab)	Annexed to other pronouns	Annexed to Nouns	Total
14	7	16	3	5	4	49
% 29	14%	33%	6%	8%	10%	100%

The number of definite nouns is 49(83%) of the total number of nouns. The occurance of definite nouns is as follows:

His promise(7) وعده , The promise(1)العهد , The promise(4) الميعاد
The promise of the reserecutionوعد الاخرة The promise of Allah(16)وعد الله
The promise of our Lord(1)وعد ربنا The promise of truth (1)وعد الحق
The promise of Truth(1) وعد الصدق The promise of my Lord(2)وعد ربي
of a truthful promise(1) صادق الوعد This promise(6)هذا الوعد
The truthful promise(1) الوعد الحق Fulfilled our promise(1)صدقناهم الوعد
Their promise(1) موعدهم(وعدهم) His promise(1))موعده
Your promise(1)موعدك my promise(1)موعدي
Your promise(1)وعدك

Definite promises are clear, undoubtful and certain.They are defined by "AL"(the) or by annexation to other nouns or pronouns,

1.Annexed to Allah, e.g.,

"... الا ان **وعد الله** حق ولكن اكثرهم لايعلمون"(يونس11:55)

".Surely,the promise of Allah is true.But most of them know not."(Yunus,11,55)

2.Preceded by a demonstrative (this) referring to a promise in the previous statement., e.g.,

"ويقولون متى **هذا الوعد** ان كنتم صادقين"(الانبياء ، 38:17)

And they say:"When will be **this promise**, if you speak the truth?" (Al-Anbiya', 17:38)

3.Added to the possessive pronoun " His" which belongs to Allah Almighty,e.g.,

"السماء منفطر به كان **وعده** مفعولا" (المزمل ، 29، 18)

" Heaven will be cleft asunder?**His promise** is certainly be accomplished" (AL-Muzzamil, 29, 18)

"فلاتحسبن الله مخلف **وعده** رسله ان الله عزيز ذو انتقام"(ابراهيم ، 47:13)

" So think not that Allah will fail to keep **His promise** to his Messengers.Certainly Allah is All-Mighty,All-able of Retribution".(Ibrahim, 13:47)

4.Annexed to Our Lord(Rabbuna)

"ويقولون سبحان ربنا ان كان **وعد ربنا** لمفعولا"(الاسراء 15، 108)

" And they say:Glory be to our Lord:Truly,the **promise of our Lord** must be fulfilled."(AL-Isra', 15:108)

7.1.B.Indefinite Nouns:

The number of indefinite promises(nouns) is 10(17%) of the total number of nouns.These promises , though indefinite, they are stylistically emphasized and certain.Their occurance is as follows:

a promise (1)عهدا a promise(1) موعدا a promise (1) موعدة a promise (7)وعدا

Examples from the analysed verses are:

"**وعدا** علينا انا كنا فاعلين"(الانبياء 17، 104)

"It is **a promise** binding on us."(Al-Anbiya' :17,104)

"**وعدا** عليه حقا في التوراة والانجيل والقران" (التوبة 10، 111)

"It is **a promise** in truth which is binding on Him in the Torah and the Gospel and the Quran"(At-Taubah,10,111)

"فعقروها فقال تمتعوا في داركم ثلاثة ايام ذلك **وعد** غير مكذوب"(هود 12، 65)

"But they killed her.So he said:Enjoy youselves in your homes for three days.This is **a promise** that will not be lied." (Hud:12,65)

7.2.Verbs

7.2.1.Imperative Verbs

Only one imperative form of the verb is used in the whole verses.Allah Almighty challenges the Satan to promise the unbelievers, surely the promises of the Satan are false.

"**وعدهم** وما يعدهم الشيطان الا غرورا"(الاسراء ، 64،15)

"And **promise them**.But the Satan promises them nothing but deceit."(AL-Isra',64:15)

Present Active 7.2.2.

The occurance of the present active is as follows:

promises(1)يعد promises you(4)يعدكم
Do you(both) promise me(1)أتعدانني we promise them(3)نعدهم
promises them(4)يعدهم You promise them(1)تواعدوهن

"واذ **يعدكم** الله احدى الطائفتين انها لكم..."(الانفال 9، 7)

"And when Allah **promise**s you one of the two parties that it should be yours"(Al-Anfal, 9,7)

"بل ان **يعد** الظالمون بعضهم بعضا الا غرورا"(فاطر 22 ، 40)

"The wrong doers **promise** one another nothing but delusion"(Fatir,40)

In both verses the doer of the action is mentioned.In the first verse the promiser is Almighty Allah while in the second the wrong doers promise each other.

7.2.3.Present passive .

The number of verbs in the present passive is 21(60%) of the present verbs.In these promises the doer(the promiser) of the action is not mentioned, it is understood from the context of the Quranic verses.

The promises will be fulfilled in the Day of Reckoning. The Paradise is promised for the believers and punishment for the wrong doers. Their frequency is as follows:

They are promised(9)يوعدون
You are promised(12) توعدون

"ان ما **توعدون** لات وما انتم بمعجزين" (الانعام 8، 134)

"Surely ,that which you are promised will verily come to pass, and you cannot escape from the punishment of Allah".(AL-Anam 8:134)

"هذا ما **توعدون** ليوم الحساب"(صاد، 23، 53)

promised for the Day of Reckoning."(Sad,23:53) "This is what you are

" فذرهم يخوضوا ويلعبوا حتى يلقوا يومهم الذي **يوعدون**" (الزخرف 25، 83)

"So leave them to speak nonsense and play until they meet the Day of theirs which the have been promised."(AL-Zukhruf,25:83)

7.2.4. Past Active

The number of active past verbs is 24(83%).They are more frequently used than the past passive.Their frequency is as follows:

You promised them (1)وعـدتهم
He promised you (3) وعدكم
I promised you (1) وعدتكم
He promised us (3) وعدنا
promised (2) عهد(وعد)

Promised(9)وعـد
You promised us(1)وعدتنا
He promised it(2)وعدها
We promised him(1)وعدناه
They promised him(1)وعدوه

The following verses show the use of the past active, the doer (promiser) of the action is Allah,however , the past in the Quran states fact like the present, e.g.,

"**وعد الله** المؤمنين والمؤمنات جنات تجري من تحتها الانهار خالدين فيها ومساكن طيبة في جنات عدن ورضوان من الله اكبر ذلك الفوز العظيم" (التوبة 10 ، 77)

"Allah has **promised** the believers gardens underwhich rivers flow to dwell therein forever,and beautiful mansions in gardens of And.But the greatest bliss is good pleasure of Allah.That is the supreme success."(AL-Taubah, 10 ,77)

"النار **وعدها** الله الذين كفروا وبئس المصير"(الحج ، 17 ،72

"The fire which Allah has **promised** to those who disbelieved, and worst indeed is that destination."(Al-Hajj, 17, 72)

7.2.5.Past passive:

Only 5 (17%) verbs are used in the past passive and as follows:

We were promised (2) وعدنا were promised(3)وعد

"لقد **وعدنا** هذا نحن واباؤنا من قبل ان هذا الا اساطير الاولين" (النمل ، 20 ، 68)

"Indeed we we **were promised** this- we and our forefathers before, verily, these are nothing but tales of the anxious."(An-Naml, 20, 68)

8.Implicit Promises:

They are the promises in which the word "promise" is not mentioned.Promise is implied and understood from the contextual meaning of the verse,e.g.,

1."...**ان لك** الا تجوع فيها ولاتعرى"(طه ،118،16)

1. "Verily,you have(a promise from us) that you will never be hungry therein nor naked."(Taha,16,118)

2."**واخرى** لم تقدروا عليها قد احاط الله بها..."(الفتح ، 21:26)

2."And other (promises) which are not within your power,indeed Allah Compasses them…"(AlFath,26:21)

3."فورب السماء والارض **انه لحق** مثلما انكم تنطقون"(الذاريات ، 23،26)

3."(What has been promised to you) is the truth, just as it is the truth that you speak"(Al-Thariyat:26,23)

4." وعد الله الذين امنوا منكم وعملوا الصالحات **ليستخلفنهم** في الأرض كما استخلف الذين من قبلهم" (النور 55)

4.(Allah has **promised** those among you who believe and do righteous deeds, that He **will** certainly grant them succession in the land, as He granted it to those before them)(An-Nur 55)

5 ."**وليمكنن** لهم دينهم الذي ارتضى لهم"(النور 55)

5.(And that He **will** grant them the authority to practice their religion which He has chosen for them) (An-Nur, 55)

6.(انا **لننصر** رسلنا والذين امنوا في الحياة الدنيا ويوم يقوم الاشهاد)(غافر 51)

6."Verily,We **will** indeed make victorious Our Messengers and those who believe in this world's life and on the Day when the witnesses will stand forth). (Ghafir, 51)

7." **غلبت** الروم ، في أدنى الارض وهم من بعد غلبهم **سيغلبون** ، في بضع سنين لله الأمر من قبل ومن بعد ويومئذ يفرح المؤمنون، بنصر الله ينصر من يشاء وهو العزيز الرحيم ، وعد الله لايخلف الله وعده ولكن أكثر الناس لايعلمون" (الروم1-6)

7."In the nearest land,and they , after their defeat, **will** be victorious,within three to nine years.The decision of the matter, before and after is only with

Allah.And on that day, the believers **will** rejoice.With the help of Allahh.He helps whom he wills, and He is the All-Mighty, the Most Merciful.A promise of Allah, Allah **fails not** in His promise, but most of men know not." (Ar-Rum 1-6)

8."ان الذين كفروا ينفقون أموالهم ليصدوا عن سبيل الله **فسينفقونها** ثم **تكون** عليهم حسرة ثم **يغلبون**"(الانفال 36)

8."Verily, those who disbelieve spend their wealth to hinder (men) from the path of Allah, and so **will** they continue to spend it; but in the end it **will** become an anguish for them, then they **will** be overcome." (AL-Anfal, 36)

9."وقال ربكم ادعوني **استجب** لكم ان الذين يستكبرون عن عبادتي **سيدخلون** جهنم داخرين"(غافر 60)

9.And your lord said:"Invoke Me and ask me for anything, I **will** respond to you.Verily, those who scorn My worship, **will** surely enter Hell in humiliation!" (Ghafir 60,)

10.(**وقضينا** الى بني اسرائيل في الكتاب **لتفسدن** في الأرض مرتين **ولتعلن** علوا كبيرا) (الاسراء،4)

10."and we decreed for the children of Israel in the Scripture:indeed you **would** do mischief in the land twice and you **will** be become tyrants and exteremely arrogant!" (AL-Isra, 4)

11."فاذا جاء وعد أولهما **بعثنا** عليكم عبادا لنا أولى بأس شديد **فجاسوا** خلال الديار وكان وعدا مفعولا"(الاسراء ، 5)

11."So , when the **promise** came for the first of the two, we **sent** against you slaves of ours given to terrible warfare.They **entered** the very innermost parts of your homes.And it was a **promise** fulfilled".(AL-Isra, 5)

12."ثم **رددنا** لكم الكرة عليهم و**أمددناكم** بأموال وبنين **وجعلناكم** أكثر نفيرا"(الاسراء ،6)

12."Then we **gave you a return** of victory over them. And we **helped** you with wealth and children and **made** you more numerous in man-power" (AL-Isra, 6)

13- "ولقد كتبنا في الزبور من بعد الذكر أن الأرض **يرثها** عبادي الصالحون، ان في ذلك لبلاغا لقوم عابدين"(الانبياء،105)

13. "We **have written** in Az-Zabur after Ath-thikr that my righteous slaves **shall** inherit the land" (Al-Anbiya' , 105)

14."لقد صدق الله رسوله **الرؤيا** بالحق **لتدخلن** المسجد الحرام **ان شاء الله** امنين محلقين رءوسكم ومقصرين فعلم ما لم تعلموا **فجعل** من دون ذلك فتحا قريبا"(الفتح ، 48)

14. "Indeed Allah **shall** fulfil the true vision which he showed to his messenger in very truth.Certainly, you **shall enter** AL-masjid AL-Haram **if Allah wills**, secure, having your heads shaved, and having your head hair cut

short, having no fear.He knew what you knew not, and He **granted** besides that a new victory."(AL-fath, 48)

Allah told His messenger that when the jews committed transgression, Allah gave their enemies power over them to destroy their country and enter the innermost parts of their homes. (WikiIslam, 2009, P.5)

So, when the time for the first of the two prophecies came, we rousec against you servants of ours of great might.

15. " ان الذين امنوا وعملوا الصالحات **يهديهم** ربهم بايمانهم تجري من تحتهم الانهار في جنات النعيم" (يونس : 9:10)

15."Verily those who believe and do deeds of righteousness, their Lord **will guide** them through their faith,under them will flow rivers in gardens of Delight."(Yunus: 10.9)

Allah Almighty promised Peace , security and guidance to the believers in every moment of their lives

16. "..... **وبشر** الصابرين"(البقرة، 155)

16." …and **give glad tidings** to the patient(Al-Baqara,2,155)

17. "... **يرسل** السماء عليكم مدرارا **ويزدكم** قوة الى قوتكم ولا تتولوا مجرمين"(هود 52:11)

17." He **will send** you(from the sky) abundant rain, and add strength to your strenghth, so do not turn away as criminals, disbelievers in the oneness of Allah)."(Hud,11,52)

No believer doubts the the promises of Allah Almighty but we doubt that we are of the faithful slaves of Allah and that we are deceived by the satamn(Muhammad Saleem 2012,p.5)

18.Allah Almighty promised the believers mercy, protection, grace and kindness

"... وان الله مع المؤمنين"(الانفال ، 19:9)

"For verily Allah **is with** the believers"(AL-Anfal 9, 19).

19.Allah will also erase the evil from them (29,7)

"والذين امنوا وعملوا الصالحات **لنكفرن** عنهم سيئاتهم **ولنجزينهم** احسن الذي كانوا يعملون" (العنكبوت ، 20 :7)

"Those who believe…We shall expiate from them their evil deeds and shallreward them according to the best of that which they used to do." (Al-'nkabut, 20:7)

20.Allah also promised victory to the believers,

" وكان **حقا علينا** نصر المؤمنين" (الروم ،47:21)

"…and it was **due from us** to aid (give victory) those who believed."(Ar-Rum,21:47).The believers will go through many tests before victory is granted.

21.Allah promised steadfastness and firmness to the believers:

"**يثبت** الله الذين امنوا بالقول الثابت في الحياة الدنيا وفي الاخرة **ويضل الله الظالمين** ويفعل الله مايشاء." (ابراهيم ، 27:13)

"Allah will establish in strength those who brelieve,with the word that stands firmin this world and the Hereafter."(Ibrahim,13:27)

Protection from the Satan 22.

"انه **ليس له سلطان** على الذين امنوا وعلى ربهم يتوكلون"(النحل ، 99:14)

"No authorithy has he (the Satan) over those who believe and put their trust in their Lord."(Al-Nahl,14:99) They will defeat him with the help of Allah.

23.Allah has also promised to pay us back with more than we did.

" ان الذين امنوا وعملوا الصالحات انا **لانضيع** اجر من احسن عملا"(الكهف ، 30:15)

"…, certainly We shall not make **the reward** of anyone who does his (righteous) deeds in the most perfect manner to be lost."(Al-Kahf,15:30)

9.Characteristics of the promises in the Glorious Quran

One of the characteristics of the promises as reflected through the words of the Quranic verses is that they are **truthful** and **binding** ,e.g.,

" واذكر في الكتاب اسماعيل انه كان **صادق** الوعد وكان رسولا نبيا" (مريم ،16، 54)

"And mention in the book(the Quran)Isma'il.Verily,he was true to what he promised,and he was a Messenger,and a Prophet.(Maryam,16:54)

Another characteristic is that they are **right** and **real**,e.g.,

" فاصبر ان وعد الله **حق**"(الروم ،21، 6)

"So be patient, the promise of Allah is **true(right)**,binding and that they will be fulfilled"(Ar-Room, 21, 6)

" ولتعلم ان وعد الله **حق** ولكن اكثرهم لايعلمون"(القصص ، 13:20)

"…and that she might know that the promise of Allah is **true**.But most of them know not."(Al-Qasas, 20, 13)

"أفمن وعدناه وعدا حسنا فهو لاقيه---"(القصص ،61:20)

The promises of Allah Almighty are **excellent**,

"…We have promised him an **excellent promise** which he will find true."(Al-Qasas, 20, 61)

On the other hand,the promises of the Satan are described as **deceptive** and **unfulfilled**,

"ان الله وعدكم وعد الحق ووعدتكم فأخلفتكم"(ابراهيم:13 ،22)

" Verily, Allah promised you a promise of truth.And I(the Satan) too promised,but I betrayed you."(Ibrahim 13,22)

"ومايعدهم الشيطان الاغرورا"(الاسراء:64:15)

"The Satan promises them nothing but **deceit**"(Al-Isra:15,64)

The promises of the wrong doers, like the promises of the Satan, are also described as deceptive and unfulfilled.

" بل ان يعد الظالمون بعضهم بعضا الا غرورا"(فاطر، 22 ، 40)

The wrong doers promise one another nothing but **delusion**.(Fatir,22,40)

10.Conclusions

On the basis of the above examples, we can conclude that all linguistic forms specific to promises must express a further action, whether in the deep structure or in their surface structure.An utterance would not be a promise if the speaker did not intend it to be so.

Promises can be explicit using the word promise or other words like shall, will, would, going to, looking forward to, let us, is a sign of. Sometimes the word **promise** is used + **will.** Other expressions are "I give my word", and "give a word of honour".

1.The use of the past tense verb / wa'ada/ (promised) denoting the future, e.g.,
(**وعد** الله الذين امنوا منكم وعملوا الصالحات لنستخلفنهم في الارض) (النور، 55)
(Allah has promised those among you who believe and do righteous good deeds, that he **will** certainly grant them succession in the land)(AL-Nur, 55)
2. The use of the preposition /la:m/ + the present verb
(و**ليبدلنهم** من بعد خوفهم أمنا) (النور، 55)
(And He **will** surely give them in exchange a safe security after their fear)(AL-Nur, 55)
3.س and سوف(will) + verb in the present form
(و**سيجزي** الله الشاكرين) (ال عمران ، 144)
(Allah **will** reward those who are grateful)(AL-Imran, 144)
4.The use of the past form of the verb to express promise in the future, e.g.,
(**فجاسوا** خلال الديار)(الاسراء ، 51)
(They **entered** (will enter) the very innermost of your homes)(AL-Isra',51)
Other verbs are:
(We provided you)امددناكم (We sent)بعثنا (We decreed) قصينا
5.The use of the present to express a promise that will be fulfilled in the future, e.g.,
(ان الارض **يرثها** عبادي الصالحون) (الانبياء ، 105)
(My righteous slaves(shall) inhert the land)(AL-Anbiya',105)
" يرسل السماء عليكم مدرارا"(52:11)
He will send you(from the sky) abundant rain"(Hud, 11:52) "
6.The use of the imperative form of the verb,e.g.,
" و**بشر** الصابرين"(البقرة ، 155)
"And give glad tidings to the patients."(AL-Baqarah , 155)
7.The use of with(will support),e.g.,
" وان الله **مع** المؤمنين"(الانفال ، 19:9)
"For verily Allah is **with** the believers."(Al-anfal, 9:19)

8.The use of expressions like "binding on Us", and "due from Us"
" وكان **حقا علينا** نصر المؤمنين"(الروم ، 47:21)
"It is **due from Us** the victory of the believers."(Ar-rum, 21:47)

The victory of the believers **is** binding on Allah Almighty and **will** be fulfilled.

9.The use of the negation,e.g.,

" انه **ليس له سلطان** على الذين امنوا."(النحل، 14:99)

"He (the Satan) has(will have) no authority over those who believe…" (Al-Nahl, 14:99).They **will** defeat him with the help of Almighty Allah.

" انا **لانضيع** أجر من أحسن عملا"(الكهف ، 15:30)

"We **shall not** make their reward to be lost"(Al-Kahf, 15:30)

10.Promises are also associated with adjectives like real , true truthful,binding and right as it is clear from the examples in section 9.

11.Parents can set an example for their children.Training starts with the childhood in the environment of the family.If we make a promise to the children we have to fulfill it.

12.The doer of the action is allah Almighty (the promiser), the promised are mostly the believers, the promised things are the Paradise, the inheritance of the land, firmness and steadfastness, peace after fear victory over enemy, giving a good life and a reward in proportion to the best of what they used to do.

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